Chapter 4:
A Present.
WHAT
DEFINES
YOU

Hayami-kun.
Ogata-san.
*PANT
は,
*PANT
は,
Um, here.
*RUSTLE
ガサ
Thank you for giving me...
...your handkerchief.
Here's a new handkerchief...
Thank you
Sure!
ガサ
*RUSTLE
Also...
Umm, I was thinking I should express my gratitude.
But candy isn't allowed in school, right?
Gratitude for what?
Huh?

What?
Oh.
*SFX
TMP
Bye-bye.
Thanks for the handker-chief.
No, nothing.
For helping me, of course.

I'm beat.
Siiiiiiigh...

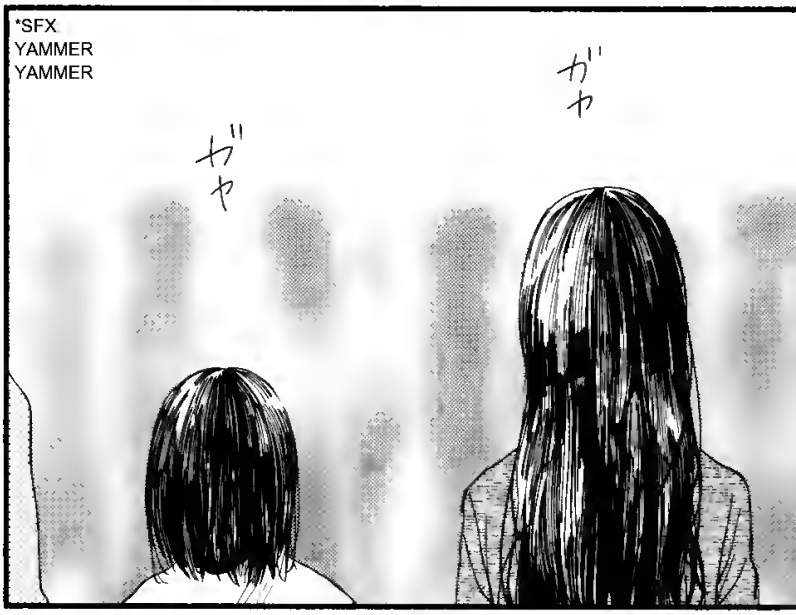
Before I went on the bus, I felt like eating something.
But the moment I took my seat, my hunger just went flying away.
Should I go to the supermarket? Nah, too busy. The grocery store should be fine.
What should I eat...?
Noodles? Nah...
*SFX TMP
だっ
What to eat, what to eat.
*SFX GAPE GAPE
ぱく
ぱく
Huh?
What?!
Mashuu?
What are you doing here?
Um...

Do you...
...want something right now?
WHAT DEFINES
...What ...??
I was thinking about giving you something...
...but I don't know what you like, so I wanted to ask you.
What?
What?
Well, why do you want to give me something...?
Because I've never expressed my gratitude to you before.

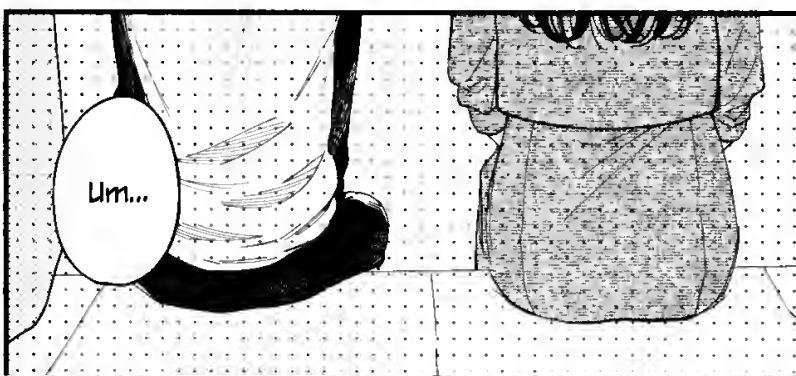
What?!!!
You don't need to do that!
I'm only supporting you because I want to.
But I want to express my gratitude.
Whaaaat? Come on, I don't want to sponge off a grade-schooler...
I'm gonna give you some-thing!
Oh.
Whoa.
All right.
No need to be so loud
All right
...Oh.
Ooh... What to do...
He's probably thinking of getting something with his allowance...
Maybe I should ask him for one of those Tirol chocolates.
Oh, what about a shoulder message ticket!
Nah, I'm not his dad, and today isn't Father's Day.
じっ…
*STARE
Uh...
What...
What...
...Are you free Satur-day...
...after-noon?

Family Sushi
KOBUSHIMARU
Umm.
I guess this is how we reserve our seats.
This is like buying stuff from my iPhone
Wow.
30 minutes of wait time...?
Table spot
nter seat
Current wait 30 min.
urrent Wait 30 min.
I guess this place is really popular...
...if you have to wait 30 minutes.
Mashuu.
We're going to eat lunch together?
Uh-huh.
Oh, did you already eat lunch?
*SFX SHAKE SHAKE
I forgot to warn you not to
Good.

*SFX
PAT
PAT
Heeey. Heeey.
ポン
ポン
Please wait in these seats.
I found seats for us.
Great!

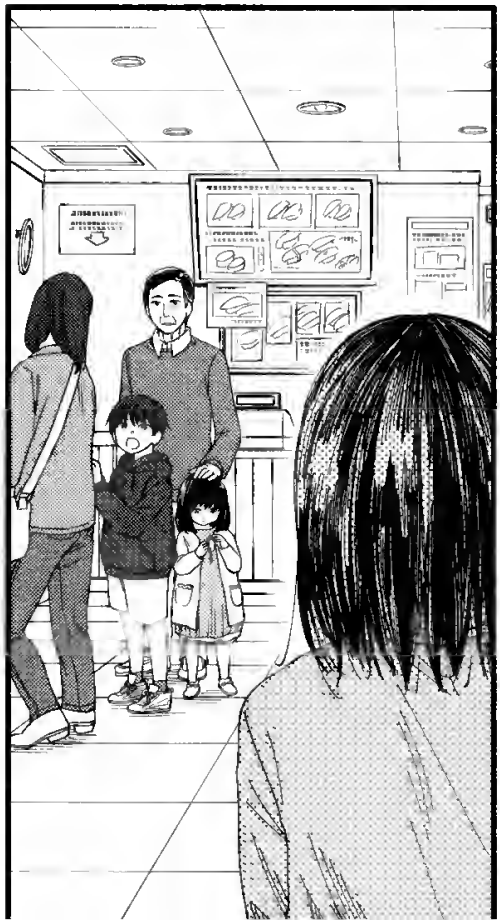

*SFX
YAMMER
YAMMER
ガヤ
ガヤ

Have you decided what you want?
!!!
Ah, yeah.
Well, you see...


Um...

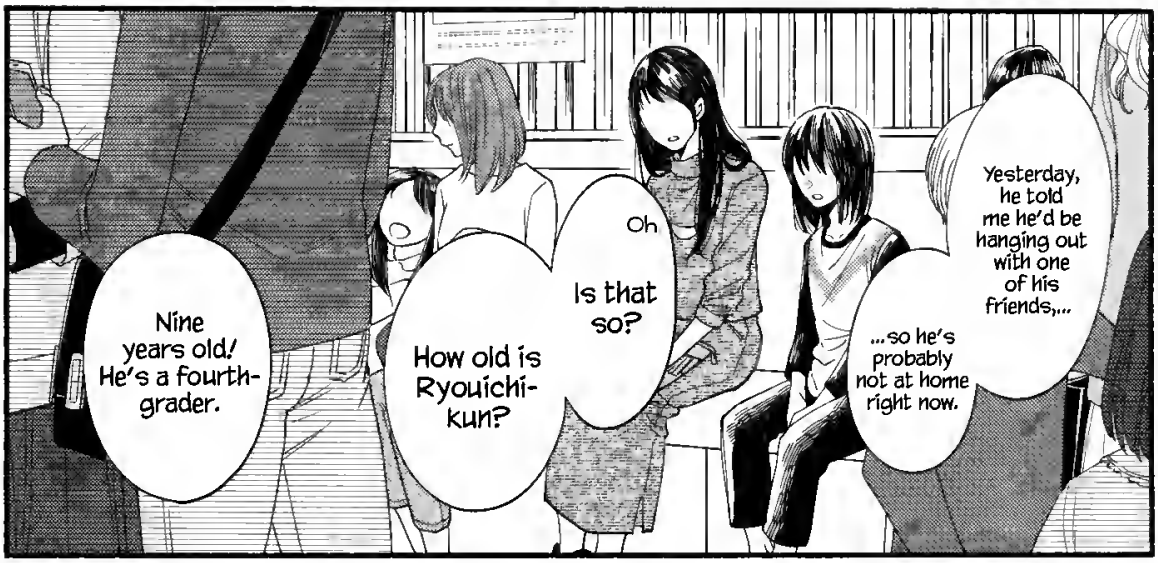
It's been three years since this place first opened. I heard the food was pretty good.
So, I've always been kind of interested.
There were many times I wanted to check it out.
But I didn't have the courage to go here all by myself...
So, I thought I could finally come here if I brought you with me...
Haha
You can express your gratitude...
...by eating together with me.
Is that okay?

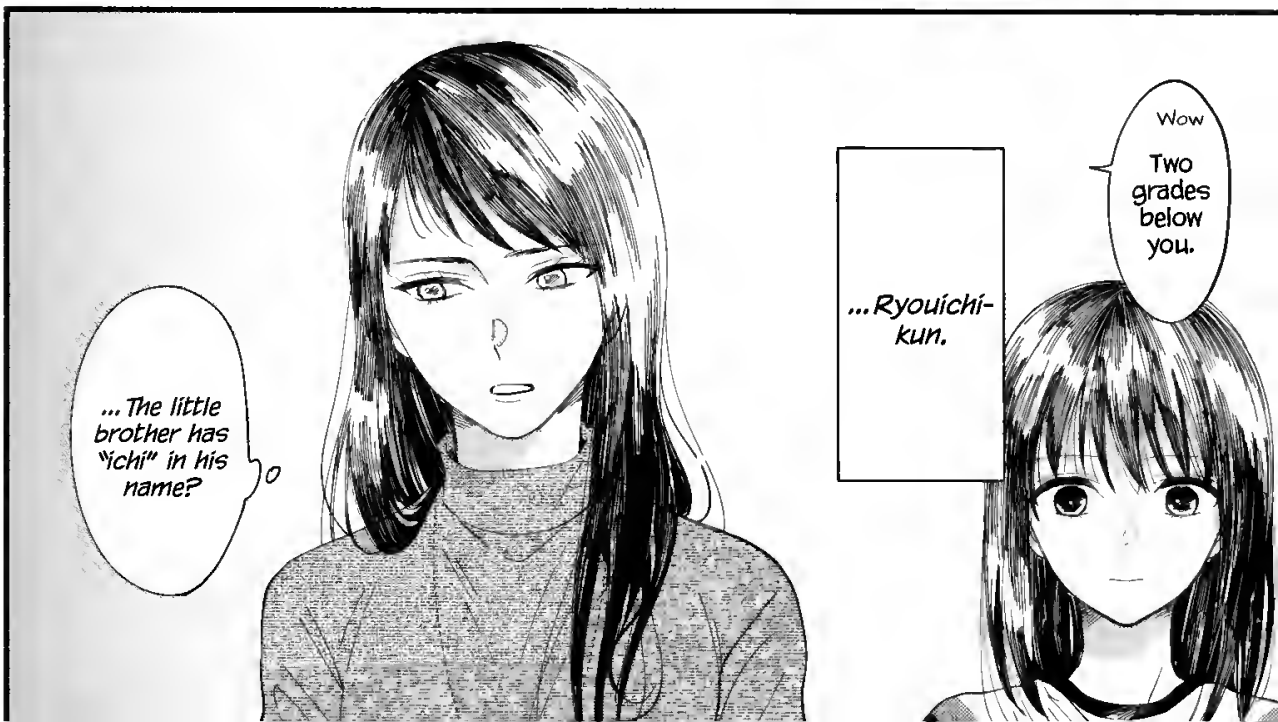
...I'm happy.
Wait, wait, you don't have to pay for anything.
It's my treat.
But I don't have a lot of money.
Are you really okay with this??
Yeah. In fact...



Sigh
Wonder what I should eat...

That reminds me.
Oh
Yeah?
Did you tell your dad...
...that you're eating with me?
He was gone in the morning.
He's at work.
Oh, really? He works Saturdays too?
That's tough
He made sure to make my brother food and a letter.
*SFX
WHAT?


Yesterday, he told me he'd be hanging out with one of his friends,...
...so he's probably not at home right now.
Oh
Is that so?
How old is Ryouichi-kun?
Nine years old! He's a fourth-grader.



*NOTE
"Ichi" means one
When put in a name, it signifies being "#1" at something

The father made food for the little brother.
But what about the mother...
...Wait, why am I getting bothered over a name?
It's probably nothing special.
I don't have a mom.
Saying you don't "have" a mom is too ambiguous.
Even if I ask Mashuu, I probably won't get the full picture.

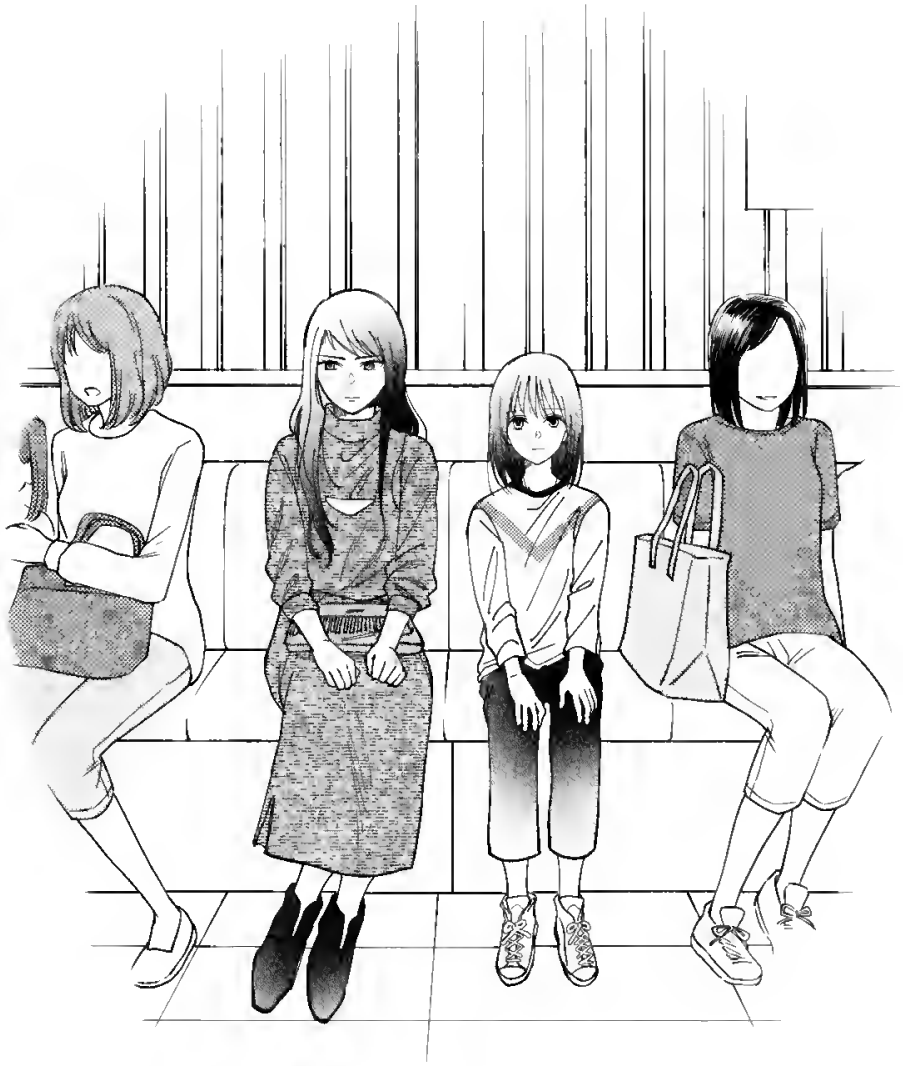
...he doesn't have a mom.

And what's more...

His little brother's name is "Ryouichi".

His dad won't show up to his games.

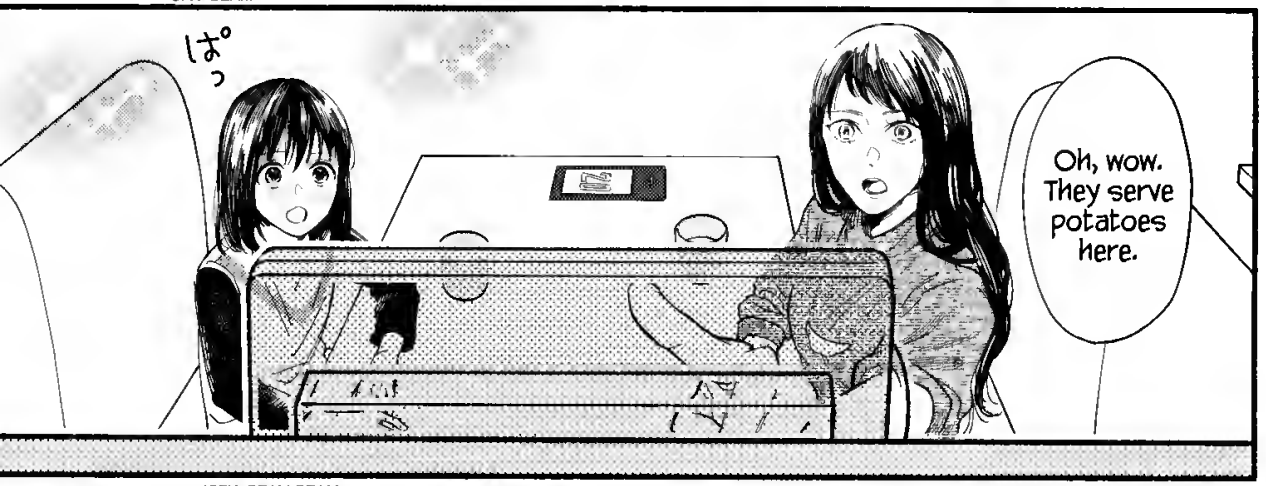
What kind of home has he been living in?



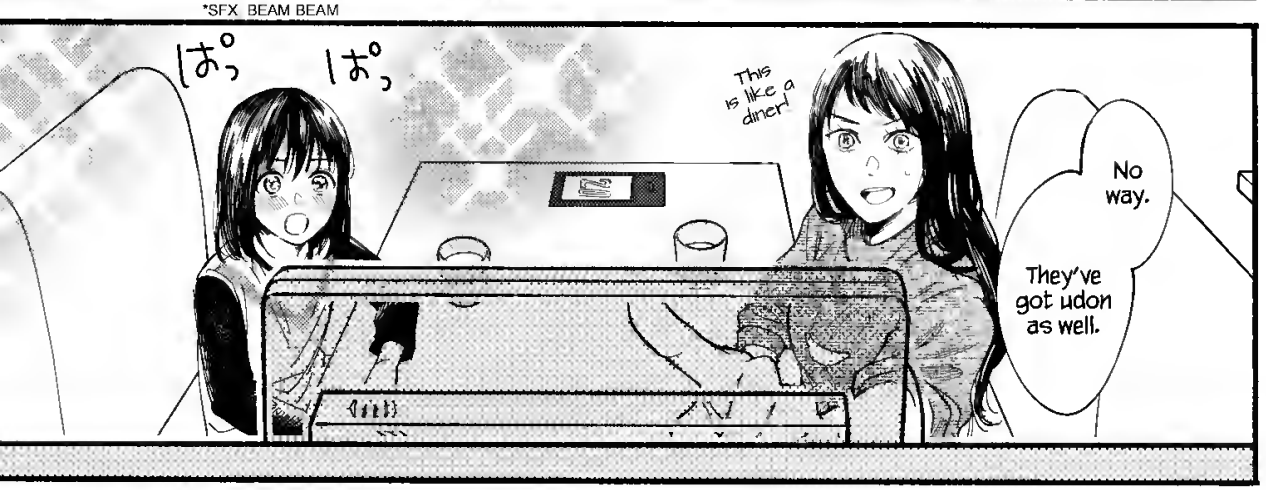
Number 36.
You will be sitting at Table 20.
Oh, alright.
20...
20-- huh?
Mashuu.
Hey
Gasp
!
Oh,
...sorry.
This is my first time being in a sushi restaurant.
...Oh, really?
きょろ
*GLANCE

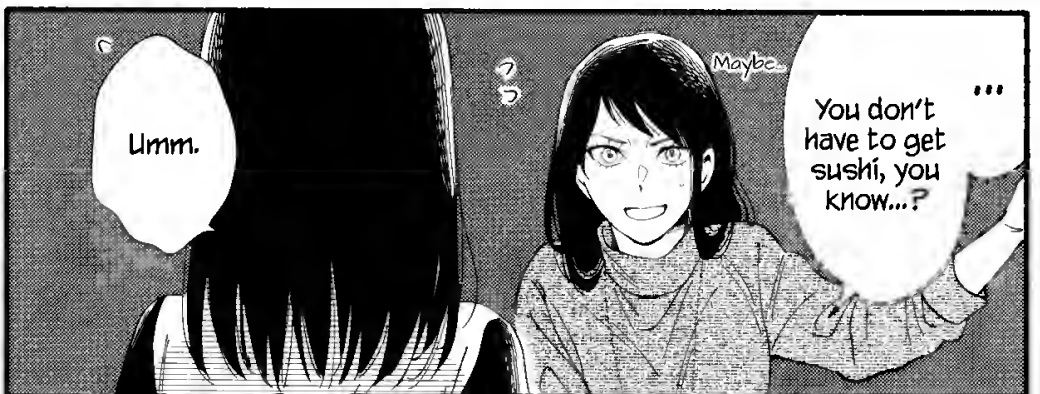
*SFX
TAP
ゴト
Here you go.
ゴポポポ…
*SLOSH SLOSH SLOSH
I'm gonna make sure he eats his fill...
Wow!
It's tea!
Where'd all the flour go?!
It's tea, alright.
Your reaction's fresh.
Wow.
Oh
You can take the entire plate if you want.
I think we can order what we want through this panel.
Do we just...
...take the sushi out of the plate and eat it?

*SFX: BEAM

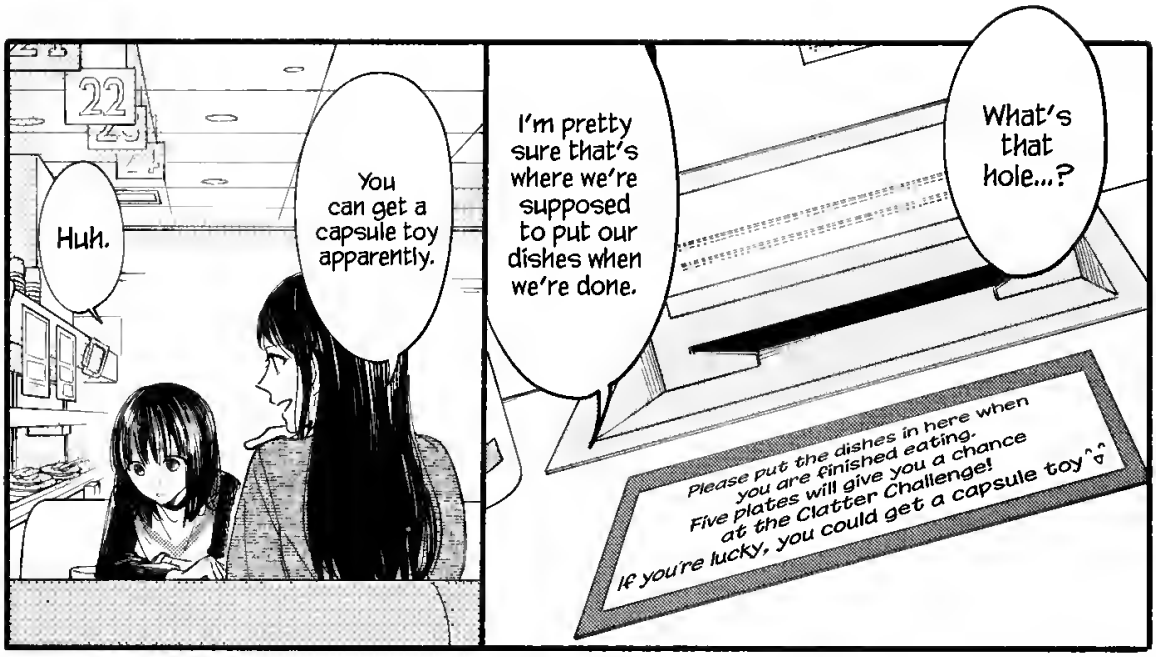


*SFX: BEAM BEAM





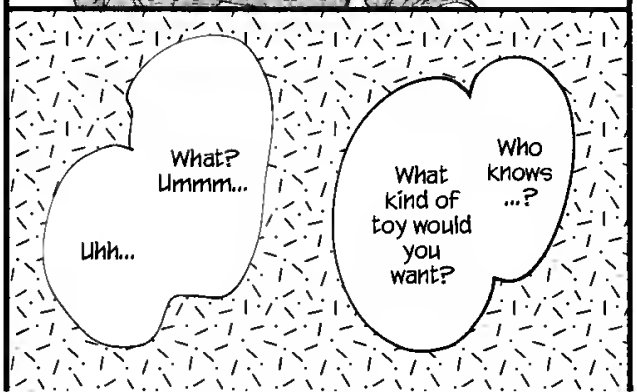
I haven't tried much sushi before...
...so I'd like to have some.
Huh.
Well, for starters...
...we could go with two pieces of standard sushi. One for me, one for you. Is that okay?
Sure!
Bill
Help
Umm
Alright then...
*SFX BEEP BEEP
じー…
*STARE


Huh.
You can get a capsule toy apparently.
I'm pretty sure that's where we're supposed to put our dishes when we're done.
What's that hole...?
Please put the dishes in here when you are finished eating.
Five plates will give you a chance at the Clatter Challenge!
If you're lucky, you could get a capsule toy^^

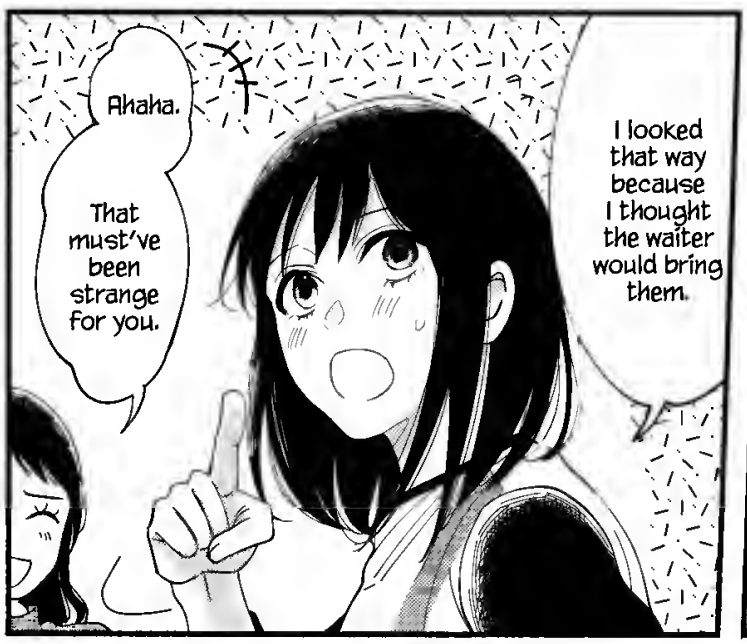
*SFX DING DING DING
Oh, it's coming!
What?
What?
*SFX TURN

Huh?
He doesn't seem interested.

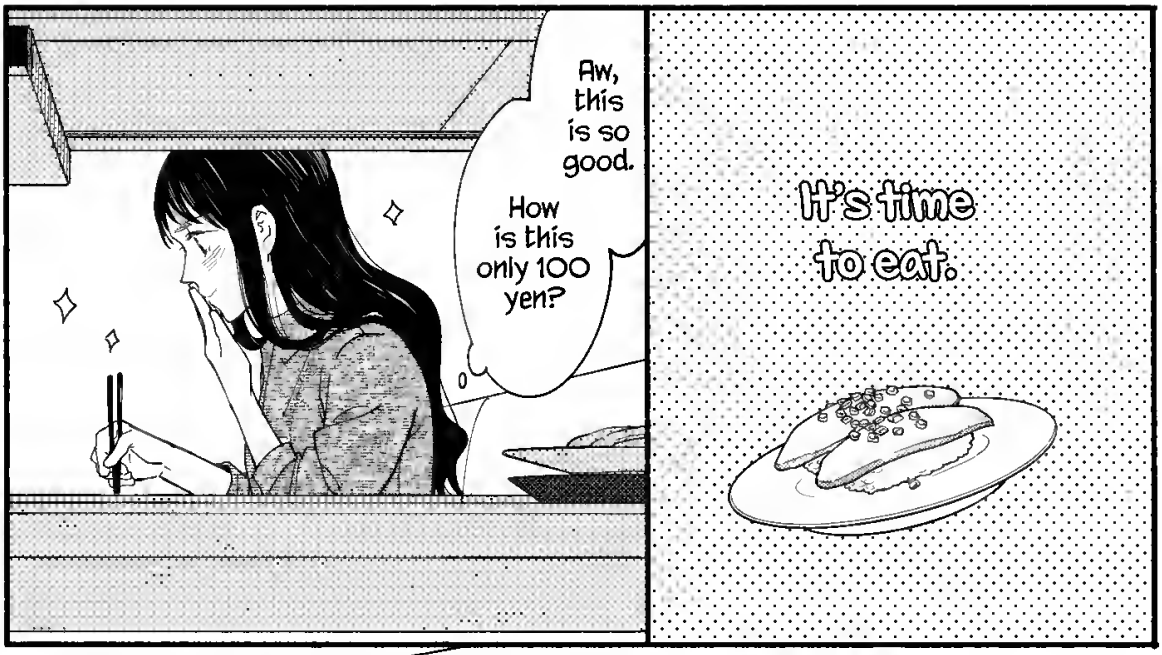
What kind of toy would I get?


What kind of toy would you want?
Who knows...?
What? Ummm...
Uhh...

*SFX: WHIRL
*DING DING
Oh, there's another one coming! Right there.
Oh!
Aw, I didn't see it!
Huh?
Come on, Mashuu, you're looking the wrong way!
It just came!
*CHAK
*FWP

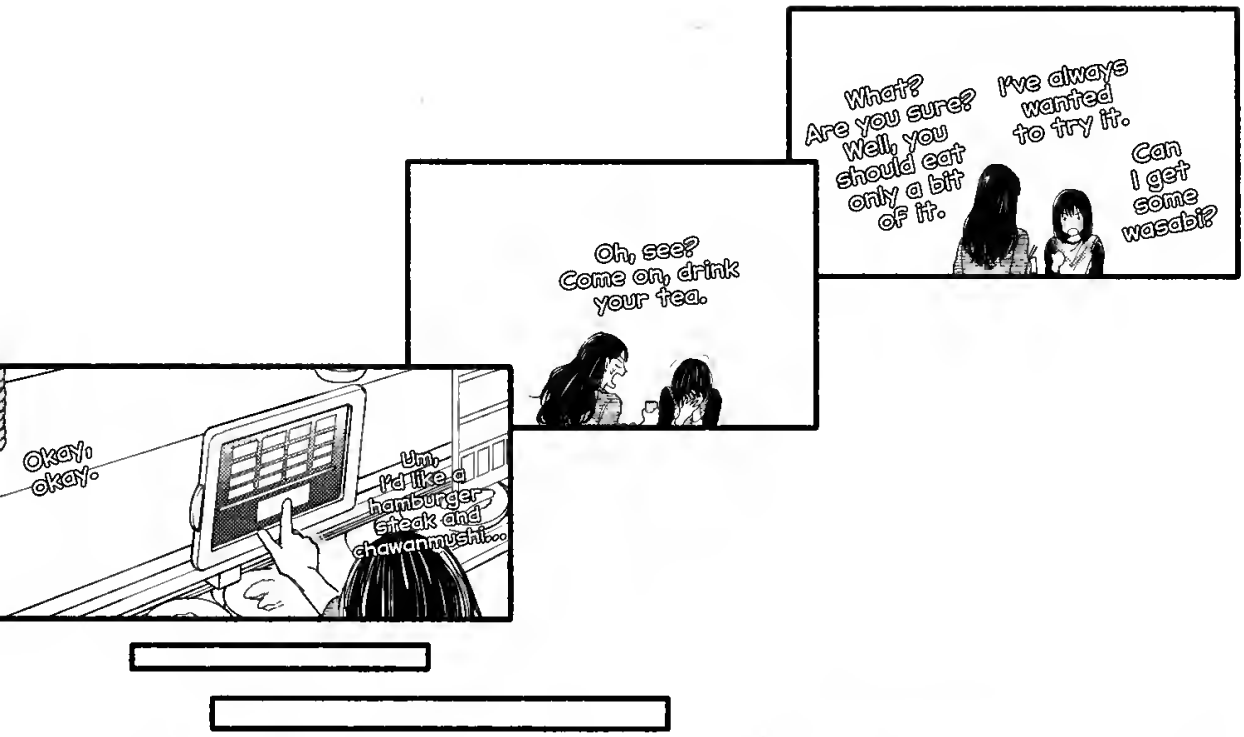

Ahaha.
That must've been strange for you.
I looked that way because I thought the waiter would bring them.

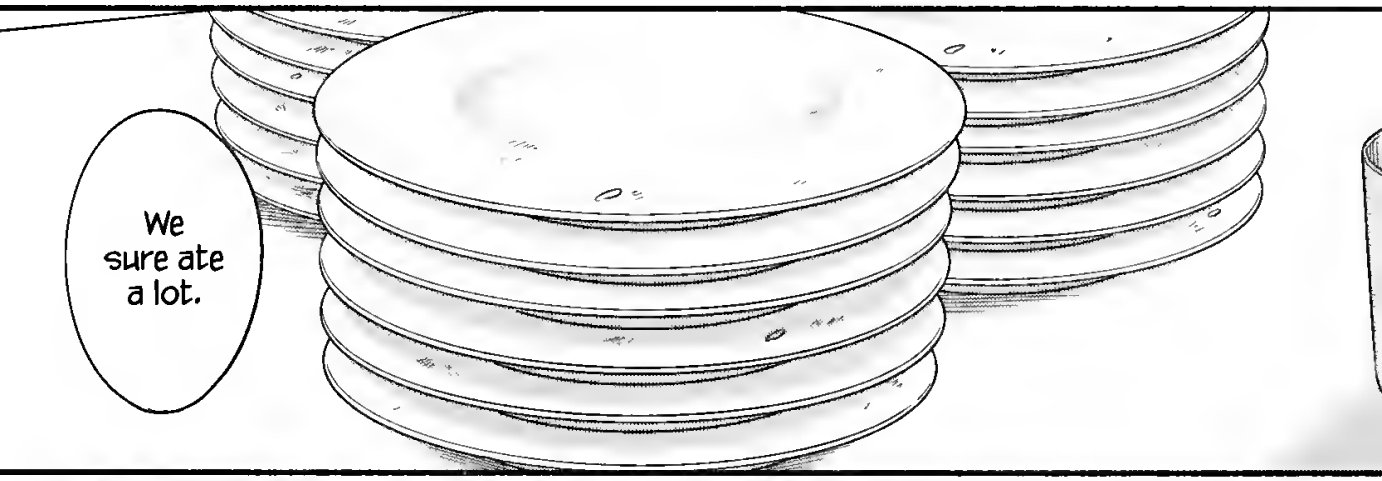
*CHAK
Wow, awesome! It stopped!

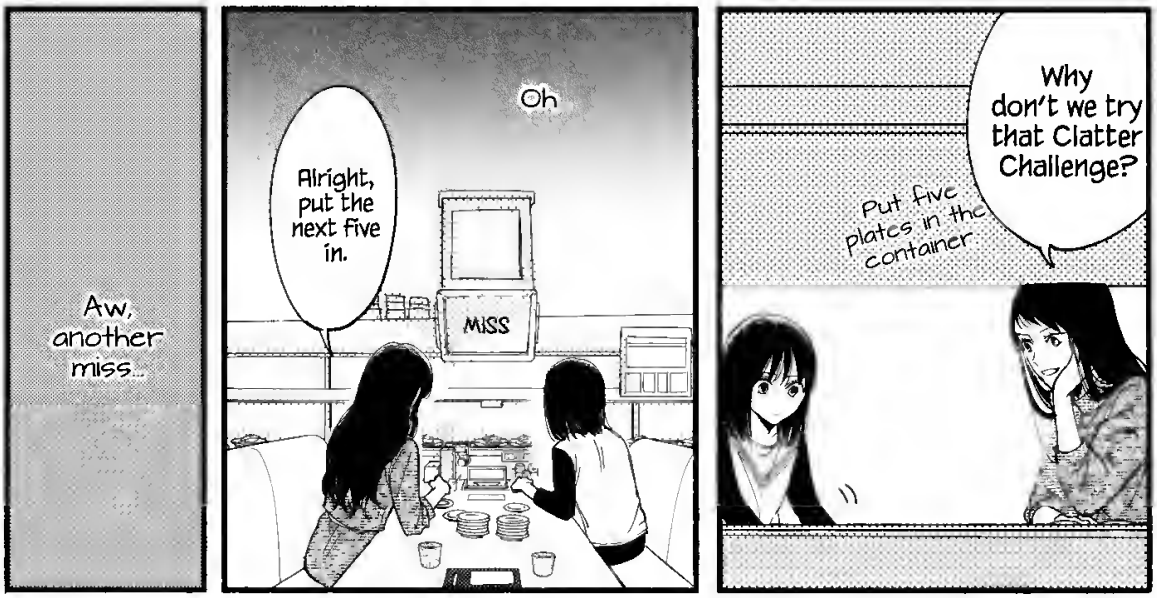

Aw, this is so good.
How is this only 100 yen?
It's time to eat.

Hold on, we don't have a plate with soy sauce.
In that case, I'll get another plate. And when I'm done, fill it with the sauce.

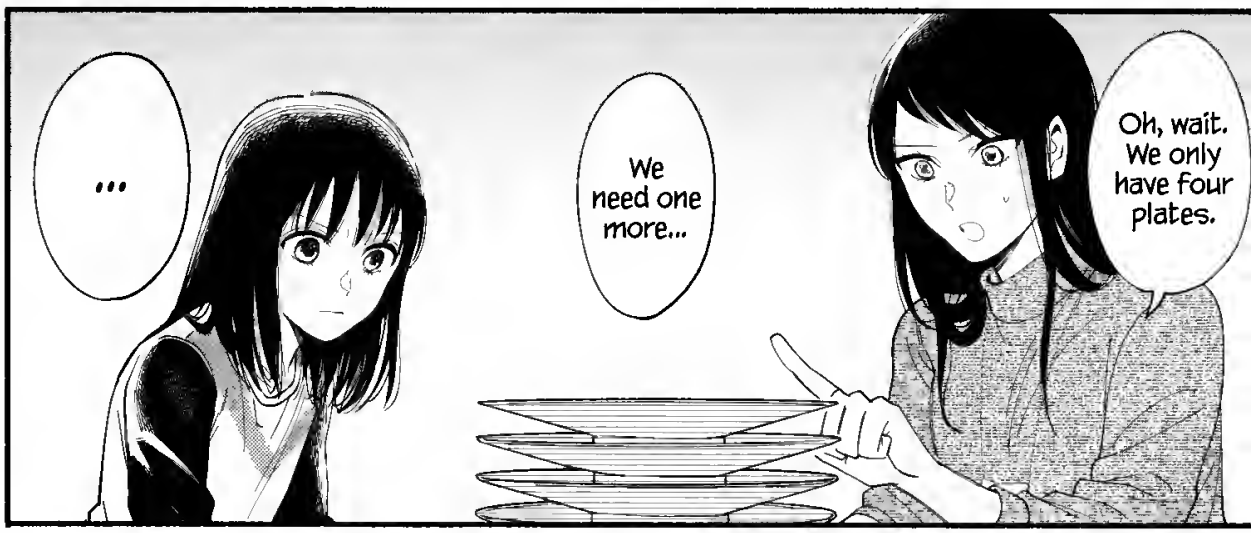
Pfft
Do you like it?
Yuh.
Ahaha!

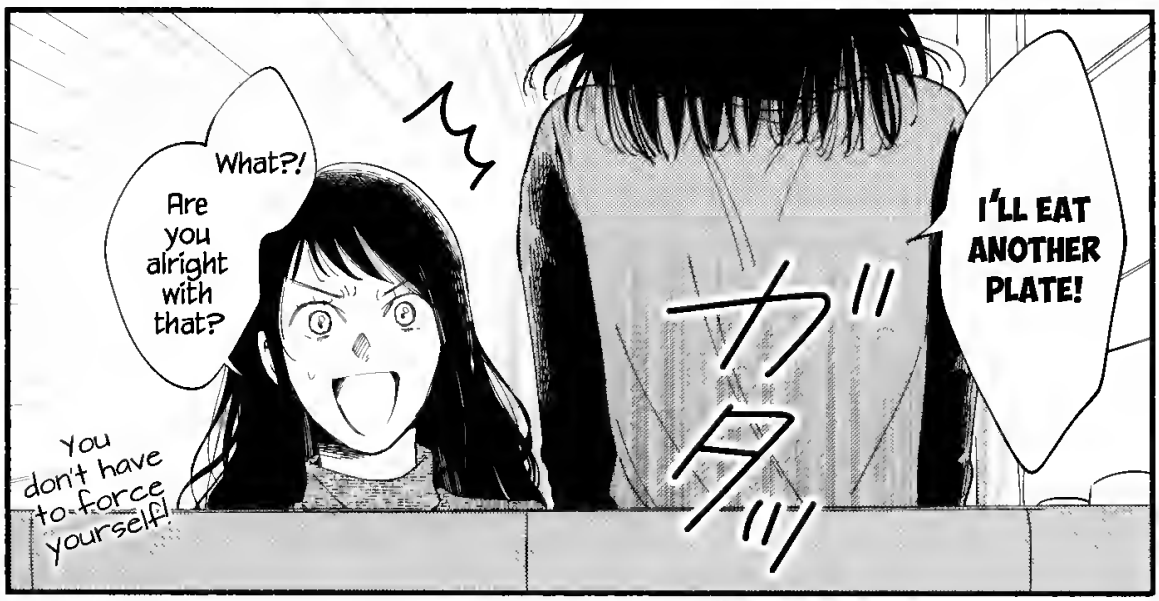

What? Are you sure? Well, you should eat only a bit of it.
I've always wanted to try it.
Can I get some wasabi?
Oh, see? Come on, drink your tea.
Okay, okay.
Um, I'd like a hamburger steak and chawanmushi...


We sure ate a lot.


Aw, another miss...
Oh
Alright, put the next five in.
MISS
Why don't we try that Clatter Challenge?
Put five plates in the container

This is the last set...
MISS
Alright
I'll go for it.
Maybe we'll get it if *you* put them in.

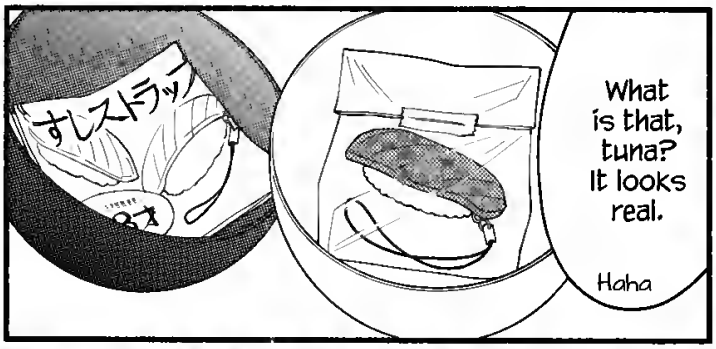

...
We need one more...
Oh, wait. We only have four plates.


What?! Are you alright with that?
You don't have to force yourself!
I'LL EAT ANOTHER PLATE!
カタ

*SFX: CLATTER

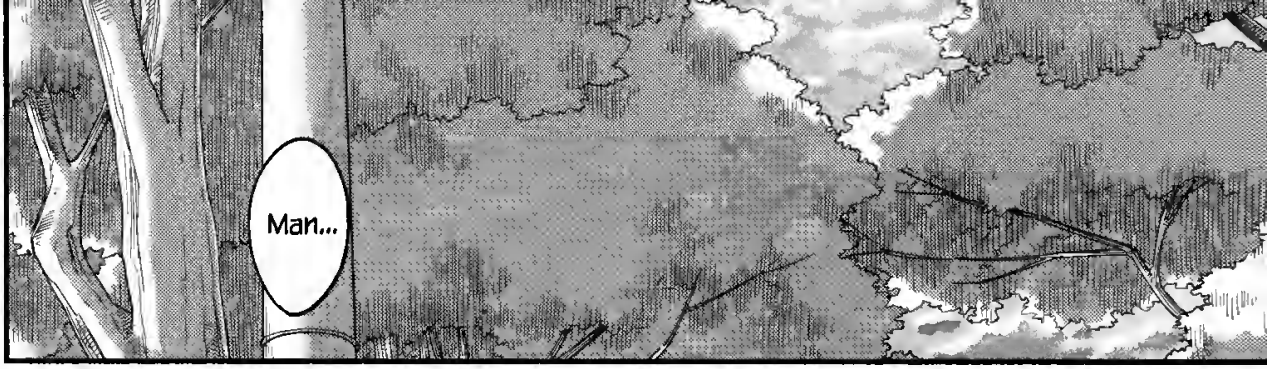
WOW!
BIG HIT

Oh!
It's at the top!
YOU CAN GET
A SUSHI STRAP!!
Where are we supposed to get it?
Huh? Where is it?


What is that, tuna? It looks real.
Haha

What's inside?
POP.

Can I?!
Yeah, you sure can.
You can have it, Mashuu.


Man...

That was delicious.
Yeah!
The wasabi kind of hurt, though.
But all of the food was good.
What was your favorite?

I also...
...won a capsule toy.

Hmm, my favorite... The shrimp...
Oh, The shrimp.
And the salmon.
And the eggs.
Haha
That's a lot of favorites.

Ahaha. You're exaggerating.
I'm so happy.
But... ...I do kind of get it.
Um...

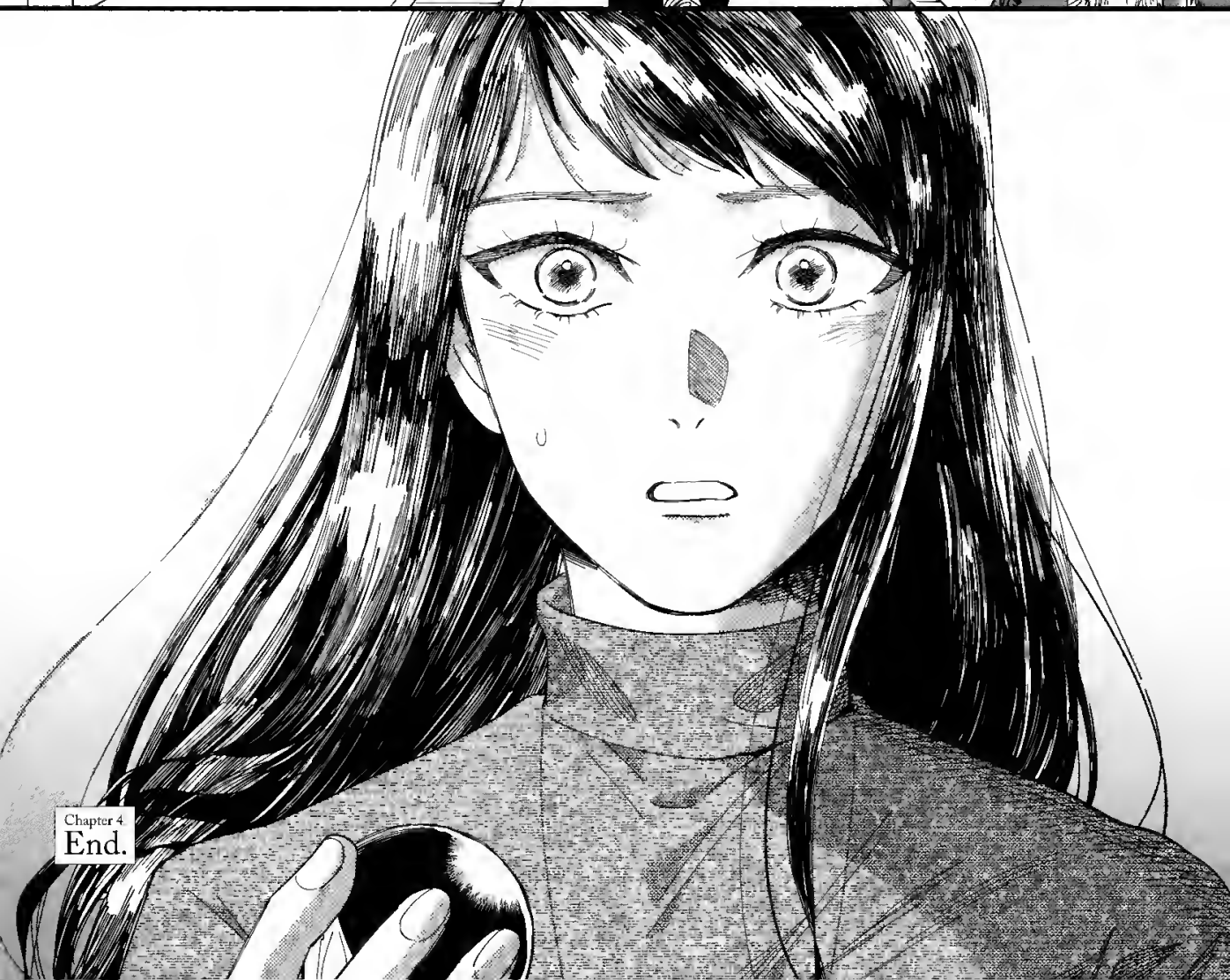
...Huh?
Onee-san, did you do this...
...because it's normal for you?
Someone told me that it's normal...
...to be nice to other people.
Is that why you're helping me with soccer?
Is that why you drive me places?
Why you wanted to eat with me?
Would you do all that for anyone else?
What?
No, I wouldn't go so far for just anybody.

Alright.
Is your house at this side of the--
--road?
*PULL
...S--

Only you, Mashuu.

Satoko-
san.

Um.
This...
...is your present.
What?
CLENCH.
Bye!
What?
Hey, wait!

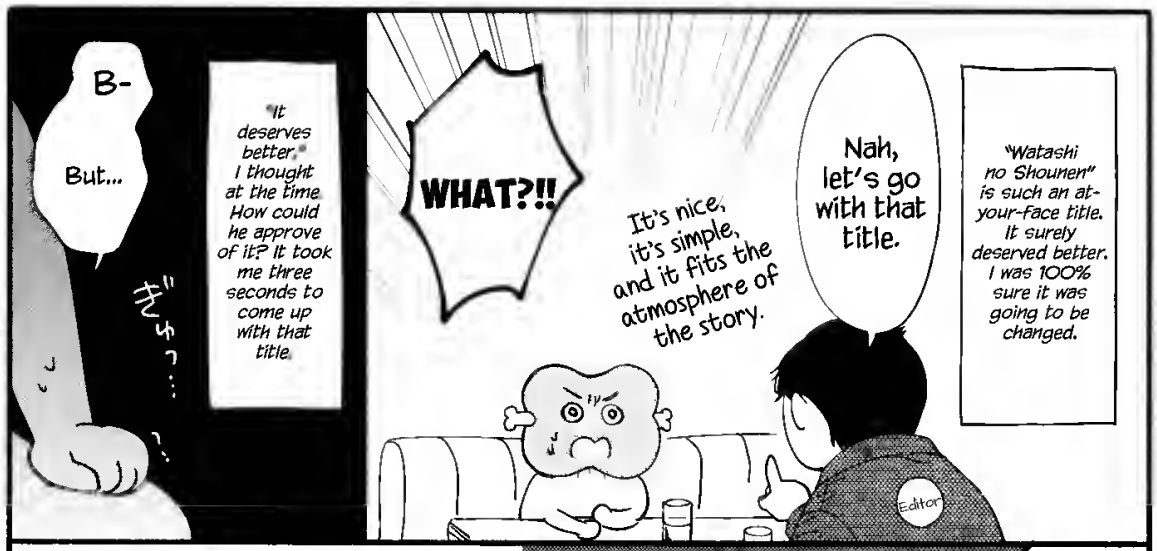

Chapter 4
End.

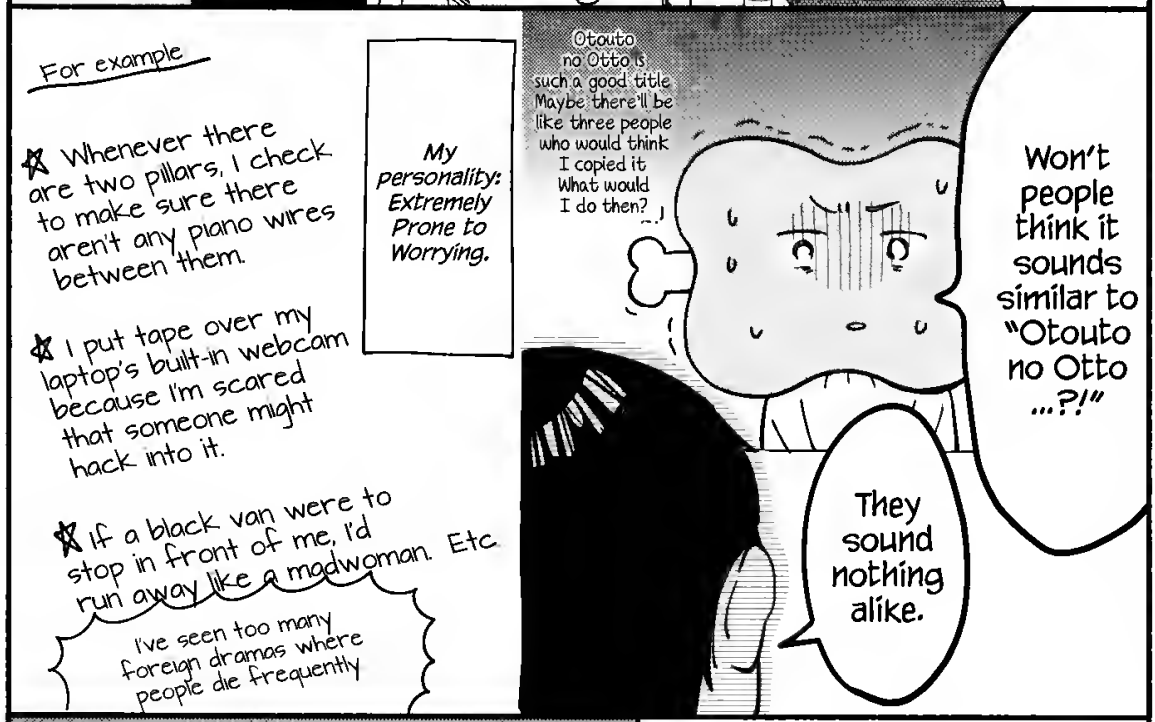
Afterword.

I'm a light eater, but I will always eat meat!!!
Pleased to meet you!!
Thank you for buying Vol. 1 of "Watashi no Shounen!!"
I'm so glad I got to release a volume!!!
Hello, my name is Takano.
I live together with my (cute) dog.
A story of a little girl and a cameraman.
This face
I could only imagine a deadpan expression
"Watashi no Shounen ..."
...is classified as an "oneshota." (I think...) But in actuality, I had intended for the main characters' genders to be reversed.
*NOTE "Oneshota" refers to a pairing of a mature woman and a young boy
The girl's name is Nao-chan.
I researched a whole lot about camera-men...!!
Thank you very much for your help, Y-san, K-san!!
I'm thankful to my friends who introduced me to a few of them...!!
*SFX PRRR .
I was getting tired of making changes to my story-board.
Editor
Dialing...
*AAAAAGH
Somehow, I managed to submit it.
But after I did, I would spend my time reading manga that had similar premises to my own. It made me depressed.
Hey, I think it's good!
I don't feel like working on it...
I thought I had everything under control...
...but when I started to do my story-board.
PC

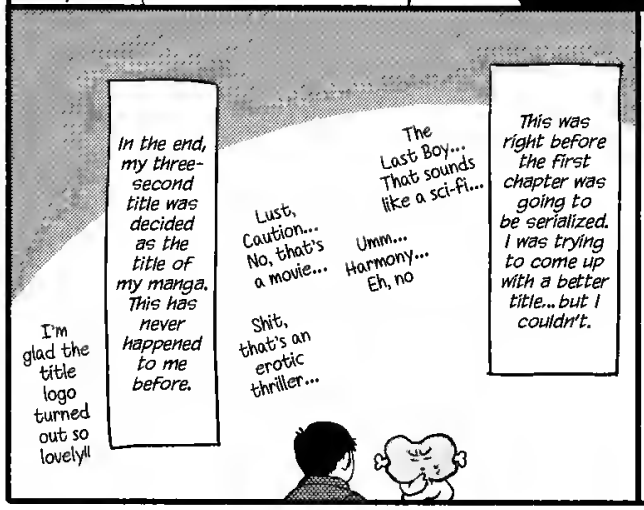
*SFX: FOOO FOOO
U-um.
I don't think this submission is going to work either.
The sound of my brain going numb.
"going to work either."
Uh-huh.
The truth is, I had already given up on two of my submissions...
This is after I submitted my second storyboard
I'm sorry, I can't write humor.
And this was going to be the third submission I'm giving up.
...honestly, I don't feel very comfortable with the main character.
I've been meaning to say this for a while, but...
All right, then we'll cast it aside.
You've got the motivation. Just keep at it and you'll find something we can work with.
WAIT!
I HAVE AN IDEA!!
WHY DON'T WE KEEP THE STORY, BUT REVERSE THE GENDERS?!
I blurted out a random idea that I came up with while I was walking my (cute) dog.
...
H-He's gone silent...
...So, uh, that would make this an oneshota, right?
I think oneshota in general is more popular with the male demographic.
But I think it'd be popular with women too. See, the boy would be growing older, and the woman would be growing older too. And that would make for some tension, yeah?
They've got a lot of older women dating younger men overseas, not even kidding. Like, there's Ashton Kutcher and Demi Moore. You know, Demi Moore needs to chill.
I'm good at running my mouth when I'm nervous.
Sounds good.
WHAT IT DOES OH MY GOD YES ARE YOU KIDDING ME?!
And this is how "Watashi no Shounen (real name TBA)" was born.

About the Title.


B-
But...
*SFX GRIP...
"It deserves better," I thought at the time. How could he approve of it? It took me three seconds to come up with that title.
WHAT?!!
It's nice, it's simple, and it fits the atmosphere of the story.
Nah, let's go with that title.
"Watashi no Shounen" is such an at-your-face title. It surely deserved better. I was 100% sure it was going to be changed.
Editor


For example
☆ Whenever there are two pillars, I check to make sure there aren't any piano wires between them.
☆ I put tape over my laptop's built-in webcam because I'm scared that someone might hack into it.
☆ If a black van were to stop in front of me, I'd run away like a madwoman. Etc.
I've seen too many foreign dramas where people die frequently
My personality: Extremely Prone to Worrying.
Otouto no Otto is such a good title Maybe there'll be like three people who would think I copied it What would I do then?
Won't people think it sounds similar to "Otouto no Otto ...?!"
They sound nothing alike.

Note: "Otouto no Otto (My Brother's Husband)" written and illustrated by Tagame Gengorou, is a super popular manga, published by Futabasha in the magazine "Monthly Action." "Watashi no Shounen" also happens to be serialized in the same magazine


I'm glad the title logo turned out so lovely!!
In the end, my three-second title was decided as the title of my manga. This has never happened to me before.
Lust, Caution... No, that's a movie...
Shit, that's an erotic thriller...
The Last Boy... That sounds like a sci-fi...
Umm... Harmony... Eh, no
This was right before the first chapter was going to be serialized. I was trying to come up with a better title... but I couldn't.

No
I think you're being too paranoid.
DON'T YOU THINK FANS OF "OTOUTO NO OTTO" WOULD GET BOTHERED BY IT?!
LET'S SAY SOMEONE OPENS THE TABLE OF CONTENTS IN THE MAGAZINE AND FINDS "OTOUTO NO OTTO" AND "WATASHI NO SHOUNEN" TOGETHER!

*SFX WHIMPER WHIMPER WHIMPER

Briefing session.
Okay.
All right, I want us all to imagine driving a car with your favorite shota in the front seat.
There is an overwhelmingly low number of shotacons in the world, so I didn't imagine that meeting with other people about my manga would go smoothly at all.
H-sawa-san
Super fashionable
Shotacon.
Relentless when it comes to editing Mashuu.
A lot of her notes say, "Needs more dialogue!!"
K-sawa-san
Powerful singing voice
Not a Shotacon.
Manages manga with lots of death
He told me he hasn't "died" much lately
Takano
Not a Shotacon.
Likes young, melancholic men who look like gorillas.
Like Channing Tatum
Before I start working on a chapter of "Watashi no Shounen," I always have briefing sessions with my two editors.
Bjorn Andrésen in a private automobile
How about Björn Andrésen from "Death in Venice..."
I'll pick Yagira-kun from "Nobody Knows."
I'd let Kamiki-kyun from "The Great Yokai War" ride in my front seat.
*GREATNESS
良さ…
I would be happy if you could continue to watch over Satoko and Mashuu's relationship.
In any case, we had a lot of fun with our meeting.
Oh man, what if I try to reach for the side break and accidentally grope his naked thigh?
Oh my god! You think if I went on a highway, he'd rip apart his bag of candy and stuff it all in his mouth?
*SFX AAH WOO WOO
End.
To be continued in Watashi no Shounen Vol. 2!!

My editors, K-sawa-san, H-sawa-san, my three assistants (angels), my friends who allowed me to model them, and my beloved readers, thank you all very much!!

Takano Hitomi

Translator:
GDAFF.

Proofreader:
Omega765, Anon.

Cleaner:
Anon.

Redrawer:
Anon.

Typesetter:
Anon.

Quality Control:
Omega765.